

NEZ PERCE TRIBE INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING & PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Núun Lilóoycix! Welcome and thank you for your interest in Nez Perce resource management!



The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe), in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs

(BIA), is initiating development of an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) and associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Nez Perce Reservation. IRMP development represents a significant milestone in Tribal resource management. The Tribe encourages regional dialogue and recommendations from Tribal as well as non-Tribal groups and individuals to help forge a fully-informed and effective plan. Your participation in this important planning process is therefore encouraged.

A public outreach and comment period began on December 7, 2015, the date a Notice of Intent to prepare the PEIS was published in the Federal Register, and will end on **February 5, 2016**. During this public outreach period, the Tribe and BIA are seeking public comments on the scope of the IRMP and PEIS, including the project's

DOCUMENTS:

1. [IRMP Frequently Asked Questions](#)
2. [IRMP Public Survey Results](#)
3. [BIA's Notice of Intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement](#)

CONTACT INFO:

LEAD AGENCY:



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purpose, need, and intended focus. This website is devoted to sharing information on this important project with all stakeholders.

Purpose, Need, & Proposed Action:

The Tribe has long recognized a growing need and responsibility to manage the Tribe's natural and cultural resources in a comprehensive, collaborative, and interdisciplinary manner, affording protection for a broad range of values through sustainable management. The Tribe currently lacks a programmatic resource management plan that explicitly lays out a vision for the future of the Tribe's resources and balances the Tribe's economic development and resource conservation goals within the Tribe's Reservation. Without such guidance, Tribal management priorities and initiatives may continue to be developed on a funding- or program-driven basis, which may prevent or hinder the Tribe from fully attaining its long-term resource management goals.

To address this need, the Tribe has proposed to develop an Integrated Resource Management Plan. An IRMP is a comprehensive and strategic planning document that integrates and guides a Tribe's natural and cultural resource management activities. It lays out a Tribe's vision for the future state of its resources and establishes a strategy and administrative framework to achieve that future. It is designed to define and promote the Tribe's long-term goals and priorities for its resources, thereby facilitating the exercise of Tribal treaty rights, Tribal self-governance, and sovereign control of our future. It is important to note that, as an internal programmatic planning document, the Tribe's IRMP is

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intended to provide strategic guidance to Tribal managers and resource specialists. It is not intended to dictate specific management practices on any particular lands within the Reservation, Tribal or non-Tribal.

Intended Focus & Preliminary Scope:

The planning area consists of the approximately 770,000 acre Nez Perce Reservation, located within portions of Nez Perce, Lewis, Clearwater, Latah, and Idaho Counties in north-central Idaho. For the purposes of IRMP development, the natural and cultural resources of the Nez Perce Tribe have been defined as the air, water, plants, animals, geology, soils, and other natural resources within the Tribe's Reservation, as well as the Nez Perce Language and the Tribe's history, archaeology, and living culture.

The Tribe's IRMP is preliminarily intended to address the following questions and issues:

- **Economic development & returns:** To what extent should the Tribe's economic development efforts and economic revenue be maximized when impacts to its natural and cultural resources are anticipated?
- **Opportunities for resource restoration:** When and to what extent should the Tribe's lost or degraded natural and cultural resources be restored?
- **Opportunities for subsistence & traditional cultural practices:** When and to what extent should the Tribe manage its natural and cultural resources to support traditional cultural practices?
- **Resource impact assessments:** When and to what extent should the Tribe evaluate the impacts of its activities on its natural and cultural resources?
- **Resource protection:** When and to what extent should the Tribe's natural and

cultural resources be administratively protected from harm?

- **Resource sustainability:** How sustainably does the Tribe wish to manage its natural and cultural resources?
- **Resource impact assessments:** When and to what extent should the Tribe evaluate the impacts of its activities on its natural and cultural resources?
- **Resource-based Tribal Employment:** How would the embrace of various resource management strategies impact Tribal employment?
- **Rural & wild land use:** How should the Tribe's rural and wild lands be used?

One of the goals of this outreach period is to help develop a range of alternative management strategies that are responsive to the above questions in unique ways. For example, some alternatives may emphasize resource management for economic development and financial returns, while others may emphasize resource conservation, enhancement, and traditional cultural practices. The above list of issues and questions, and the alternatives designed to address them, may change based upon comments received during this public outreach period. The Tribe welcomes your comments on, and answers to, the above questions and issues, as well as suggestions for other questions or issues you would like the IRMP to address.

Public Involvement:

The BIA and Tribe will be co-hosting a series of public scoping meetings to solicit input on this planning effort. These meetings are open to everyone interested in Tribal resource management, Tribal members and non-members alike. Public scoping meetings are scheduled to be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

- **Monday, January 11, 2016 (7:00-9:30pm):** Pineewaus Community Center, 99 Agency Road, Lapwai, ID
- **Tuesday, January 12, 2016 (7:00-9:30pm):** Teweepuu Community Center, 3402 Highway 12, Orofino, ID
- **Wednesday, January 13, 2016 (7:00-9:30pm):** Wa a'yas Community Center, 502 Main Street, Kamiah, ID
- **Thursday, January 14, 2016 (7:00-9:30pm):** Craigmont City Hall, 109 E. Main Street, Craigmont, ID

If you cannot attend one of the meetings or would like to comment in another form, you can still participate in this effort:

- Online: Comments and suggestions can be emailed to anna.schmidt@bia.gov.
- Faxed: Comments and suggestions can be faxed to (503) 231-2275.
- Written: Comments and suggestions can be mailed or hand delivered to: Anna Schmidt, BIA Northwest Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4169.

When developing your comments, please consider addressing the following questions in particular:

- What natural and cultural resource management needs or issues should the IRMP be designed to address?
- What management alternatives should be considered to address these needs and issues?

Please include your name, return address, and the caption "Programmatic EIS, Nez Perce Reservation IRMP" on the first page of any written comments you submit. Please be aware that all comments submitted to the BIA, including the names and addresses of respondents, will become a matter of public

record and will be available for public review through the BIA. While you can request that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, the BIA cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Please note that all comments must be received no later than February 5, 2016 to receive consideration.